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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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May 3, 1999

**Contact:** John F. Schwaller, associate provost, (406) 243-4689.

### **UM FILLS THREE DEAN POSITIONS**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The University of Montana named three new academic deans Monday, Associate Provost John F. Schwaller announced.

Longtime UM German Professor Gerald Fetz is the new dean of the Davidson Honors College, a position he has held on an interim basis during the 1998-99 academic year. Jerry E. Brown, professor and journalism department head at Alabama's Auburn University, is the new dean of UM's School of Journalism. The School of Fine Arts' new dean is Shirley Howell, who is currently associate dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Northern Colorado.

Brown and Howell will assume their new positions at the start of the next academic year, while Fetz will continue in the post he's held for the past nine months.

Fetz joined the UM faculty as an instructor of German and humanities in 1970 and advanced to full professor in 1983. He chaired the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures from 1977 to 1982 and again from 1996 to 1998. He has been actively involved in international education and study abroad programs for UM students for the past decade.

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Fetz currently chairs the University's Northwest 2000 Accreditation Steering Committee, which is preparing for an evaluation site visit in April 2000. He served as chair of the Montana Committee for the Humanities during 1979-80 and as MCH's acting executive director during 1984-85, 1988 and 1993-94. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in Germanics from the University of Oregon.

A former newspaper editor, Brown has taught at Auburn University since 1979. He previously taught English at Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee State universities and has served as head of Auburn's journalism department since 1994, after a two-year stint as acting department head.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Auburn, a master's in creative writing from Hollins College and a doctorate in English from Vanderbilt University. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth College in 1976.

Howell directed the School of Music at the University of Northern Colorado from 1984 to 1996, after serving as assistant to the dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts at UNC. She was acting dean of the college during 1996-98. She earned a doctor of arts in music from UNC in 1987 and a master of education degree from the University of Puget Sound in 1974.

She received the UNC Provost's Merit Citation for Administrative Excellence in 1998, the President's Citation for Contributions to Excellence in Education in 1995 and the Honored Administrator Award from the Colorado Music Educators Association in 1994.

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